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49. The photo identification document of claim ¹18 in which the encoding comprises a texture imparted to a surface of said document.

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50. The photo identification document of claim ¹18 in which the encoding comprises a calibration signal, said signal aiding the later decoding of said multi-bit data.

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51. The photo identification document of claim ¹¹50 wherein the calibration signal is not apparent to human observers of the document.~

REMARKS

After entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 18-24 and 33-51 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-17 and 25-32 are canceled, without prejudice to applicant's right to continue prosecution thereof in a related application.

A Terminal Disclaimer over patent 6,343,138 is submitted herewith, and is believed to put claims 18-21 in condition for allowance.

Claim 22 was objected-to, and has been rewritten in independent form as a method claim. Accordingly, claim 22, and claims 23 and 24 dependent thereon, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

New claims 33-37 depend from rewritten claim 22, adding further limitations earlier presented in the now-canceled claims.

New dependent claims 38-51 are modeled after dependent claims in patent 6,343,138 (for which the Terminal Disclaimer is presented).

In view of the foregoing, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and action to that end is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made in Claims:

Cancel claims 1-17 and 25-32 without prejudice.

Amend claims as follows:

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22. (Amended) **A method of producing a photo identification document, the document being characterized by steganographic encoding representing multi-bit data, said multi-bit data being computer-discernable from analysis of visible light scan data, but the existence of said encoded data not being evident to human observers of the document, the steganographic encoding including:** [The photo identification document of claim 18, wherein the steganographic encoding includes:]
providing the multi-bit data and at least one noise signal to a computing device;
receiving from said computing device a noise-like output signal; and
additively applying the noise-like output signal to the document.

Please add new claims as follows:

--33. The method of claim 22 in which the photo identification document includes printed text, and the multi-bit data corresponds to at least a part of said printed text.

34. The method of claim 22 wherein the multi-bit data comprises an index into a registry containing additional information.

35. The method of claim 22 in which the photo identification document includes printed text, and the multi-bit data is useful in cooperation with at least part of said printed text to verify authenticity of the document.

36. A plastic document produced in accordance with claim 22.

37. A driver's license produced in accordance with the method of claim 22.
38. The method of claim 22 wherein some regions of the document are not steganographically encoded.
39. The method of claim 22 wherein the encoding slightly changes a visible image on the document to encode the multi-bit data therein, the changes being adjusted in accordance with local characteristics of the visible image so as to avoid impairing the aesthetics thereof.
40. The method of claim 22 in which each bit of the multi-bit data is encoded at plural locations across the document, but the encoding of each said bit takes different forms at different locations.
41. The method of claim 22 in which the encoding includes texturing a surface micro-topology of the document to encode the plural binary bits therein.
42. The method of claim 22, further characterized by encoding a calibration signal in the photo, said calibration signal aiding the later decoding of the multi-bit data.
43. The method of claim 42 in which the calibration signal is not apparent to human observers of the document.
44. The method of claim 22 in which said encoding encompasses regions of the document distinct from any text or photo thereon.
45. The photo identification document of claim 18 in which the steganographic encoding spans some, but not all, of the document.

46. The photo identification document of claim 18 in which the steganographic encoding encompasses regions of the document distinct from any text or image thereon.

47. The photo identification document of claim 18 in which the encoding comprises slight changes to a visible image, the changes being tailored in accordance with local characteristics of the image so as to minimize impairing the aesthetics thereof.

48. The photo identification document of claim 18 in which each bit of the multi-bit data is encoded in plural locations across the document, but the encoding thereof is different at different locations.

49. The photo identification document of claim 18 in which the encoding comprises a texture imparted to a surface of said document.

50. The photo identification document of claim 18 in which the encoding comprises a calibration signal, said signal aiding the later decoding of said multi-bit data.

51. The photo identification document of claim 50 wherein the calibration signal is not apparent to human observers of the document.--